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BALMAIN, 2041
AUSTRALIA

EXAMINER

PRABHAKHER, PRITHAM DAVID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/08/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/642,331	Applicant(s) SILVERBROOK ET AL.	
	Examiner Pritham Prabhakher	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11-20, 23-32 and 35-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 10, 21, 22, 33 and 34 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

An update needs to be made to the patent number of the parent application.

Claim Objections

Claims 6,8 and 44 are objected to because of the following informalities:

On Page 13, **Claim 6** refers back to itself instead of claim 5.

In **Claim 8**, "generated" should be rewritten as "generate".

Claim 41 and 44 are duplicates of each other since both claim "A camera according to claim 41, wherein the output means comprises a USB port".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-2,4,11,12,14,23-24,26,35,37,39 and 41 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oie (US Patent No.: 6188431B1).

*In regard to **Claim 1**, Oie teaches of a camera for creating and displaying a manipulated image, the camera comprising:*

(b) *input means configured to receive input image data from a source other than the camera (The camera has an I/O port configured to receive image data from another source other than the camera, **Column 4, Lines 37-39**);*

(c) *image manipulation means configured to receive the input image data from the input means and manipulate it to form a manipulated image (The compression/expansion section 33 manipulates (compresses/expands) the image signals input from the I/O port through the CPU 39, **Column 5, Lines 20-35 and Figure 2**);*

(d) *output means configured to receive the manipulated image from the image manipulation means and to output the manipulated image from the camera (The manipulated image (image that is compressed) from the compression/expansion section 33 can be sent via the CPU 39 and output via the I/O port 45, **Column 6, Lines 17-25**); and*

(e) *display means configured to receive the manipulated image from the image manipulation means and to display the manipulated image (The image that is manipulated (expanded) from the compression/expansion circuit 33 can be sent for display on the LCD 6, **Column 6, Lines 34-39**).*

*Regarding **Claim 2**, Oie teaches of a camera according to claim 1, wherein the input means is configured to receive the input image from an input-image-providing camera (Camera 1b can receive image data from camera 1a (image input providing camera), **Column 6, Lines 17-20 and Figure 3**).*

*In regard to **Claim 4**, Oie teaches of a camera according to claim 1, wherein the output means is configured to output the manipulated image to a manipulated-image-receiving camera (Camera 1a compresses (manipulates) the image captured and sends it to camera 1b (manipulated image-receiving camera) via the I/O port 45, **Column 6, Lines 17-25**).*

*In regard to **Claim 35**, Oie teaches of a manipulated image formed using a camera according to claim 1 (The compression/expansion section 33 manipulates (compresses/expands) the image signals input from the I/O port through the CPU 39, **Column 5, Lines 20-35 and Figure 2**).*

*Regarding **Claim 11**, Oie teaches of a plurality of cameras for creating a manipulated image, the plurality of cameras (**Figure 3 of Oie**) including:*

- (a) a primary camera (Camera 1a in Figure 3), comprising:*
 - (i) image capture means configured to capture a real image as a primary captured image (**Column 3, Lines 56-60**);*
 - (ii) image manipulation means configured to manipulate the primary captured image to form a primary manipulated image (The compression/expansion section 33 manipulates (compresses/expands) the image signals input from the I/O port through the CPU 39, **Column 5, Lines 20-35 and Figure 2**);*
 - (iii) image providing means configured to receive the primary manipulated image from the image manipulation means and provide the primary manipulated image to a*

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secondary camera (The compressed (manipulated) image data from camera 1a is transferred to a second camera 1b that receives the manipulated image data, **Column 6, Lines 17-26**); and

(b) a secondary camera (Camera 1b in Figure 3), comprising:

(i) image capture means configured to capture a real image as a secondary captured image (The cameras 1a and 1b have the same function and are of the same type, **Column 4, Lines 46-48**. Therefore, the secondary camera can capture a real image as a secondary captured image);

(ii) image receiving means configured to receive the primary manipulated image from the image providing means of the primary camera (The camera 1b receives the image data from camera 1a (primary manipulated image data) through the I/O port 45 of camera 1a, **Column 6, Lines 17-26**); and

(iii) image manipulation means configured to receive the primary manipulated image from the image receiving means and manipulate the primary manipulated image to form a secondary manipulated image (The second camera 1b receives the primary manipulated image from the image receiving means (I/O port 45) and expands (manipulates) the primary image data to form a secondary (expanded) image data, **Column 6, Lines 32-37**).

With regard to **Claim 12**, Oie teaches of a plurality of cameras according to claim 11, wherein the secondary camera further comprises display means configured to receive the secondary manipulated image from the image manipulation means and

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display it (The image that is manipulated (expanded) from the compression/expansion circuit 33 can be sent for display on the LCD 6, **Column 6, Lines 34-39**).

With regard to **Claim 14**, Oie teaches of a plurality of cameras according to claim 11, wherein the secondary camera further comprises image providing means configured to receive the secondary manipulated image from the image manipulation means of the secondary camera (The cameras 1a and 1b have the same function and are of the same type, **Column 4, Lines 46-48**. Therefore, the camera 1b also has an I/O section 45 for outputting imaged data from the image manipulation means (compression/expansion section 33)) and to provide the secondary manipulated image to one or more further cameras (The reference teaches of providing images to multiple cameras, **Column 7, Lines 43-47**).

Method **Claims 23,24 and 26** correspond to apparatus claims 11,12 and 14 and are therefore analyzed and rejected as previously discussed in apparatus claims 11,12 and 14.

Regarding **Claim 37**, Oie teaches of a secondary manipulated image formed using a plurality of cameras according to claim 11 (The second camera 1b receives the primary manipulated image from the image receiving means (I/O port 45) and expands (manipulates) the primary image data to form a secondary (expanded) image data, **Column 6, Lines 32-37**).

Claim 39 is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claim 37 and is therefore analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to apparatus claim 37.

With regard to **Claim 41**, Oie teaches of a camera for creating a manipulated image, the camera comprising:

(a) image capture means configured to capture a real image and convert it to captured image (**Column 3, Lines 56-60**);

(b) input means configured to receive input image data from a source other than the camera (The camera has an I/O port configured to receive image data from another source other than the camera, **Column 4, Lines 37-39**);

(c) image manipulation means configured to receive the input image data from the input means and manipulate it to form a manipulated image (The compression/expansion section 33 manipulates (compresses/expands) the image signals input from the I/O port through the CPU 39, **Column 5, Lines 20-35 and Figure 2**);

(d) output means configured to receive the manipulated image from the image manipulation means and to output the manipulated image from the camera (The manipulated image (image that is compressed) from the compression/expansion section 33 can be sent via the CPU 39 and output via the I/O port 45, **Column 6, Lines 17-25**);
and

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*(e) display means configured to receive the manipulated image from the image manipulation means and to display the manipulated image (The image that is manipulated (expanded) from the compression/expansion circuit 33 can be sent for display on the LCD 6, **Column 6, Lines 34-39**).*

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3,5 and 15-17,27-29,43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oie (US Patent No.: 6188431B1) as applied to claims 2,4,11,14, 23,26 and 41 above.

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With regard to **Claim 3**, Oie teaches of a camera according to claim 2, wherein the input means comprises at least connecting the cameras together via a cable, **Column 4, Lines 57-58**. However, Oie does not teach of the input means being done via a USB cable. Official notice is taken saying that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the use of an USB cable to input information from one camera to another because this was a common and well known way of rapidly transferring data.

Regarding **Claim 5**, Oie teaches of a camera according to claim 4 wherein the output means comprises outputting an image from camera 1a to camera 1b via the I/O port 45 using a communication cable 69, **Column 6, Lines 17-26**. However, Oie does not teach that the output communication cable is an USB cable. Official notice is taken saying that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the use of an USB cable to output information from one camera to another because this was a common and well known way of rapidly transferring data.

In regard to **Claims 15 to 17**, Oie teaches of the first and second cameras providing and receiving image data via the I/O ports using communication cables, **Column 5, Lines 50 et seq.** However, Oie does not explicitly teach that the communication cables used are USB cables. Official notice is taken saying that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the use of an USB cable to output information from one camera to another because this was a common and well known way of rapidly transferring data.

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*Regarding method **Claims 27-29**, they correspond to apparatus claims 15-17 above and are therefore analyzed and rejected as previously discussed in apparatus claims 15-17.*

*Regarding **Claims 43 and 44**, Oie teaches a camera according to claim 41 wherein an input means (I/O port 45) uses a cable 69. However, Oie does not explicitly teach that the communication cable connected to I/O port is an USB cable. Official notice is taken saying that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the use of an USB cable and that the I/O port is an USB port to output information from one camera to another because this was a common and well known way of rapidly transferring data.*

Claims 6,13,25,36,38 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oie (US Patent No.: 6188431B1) as applied to claims 1-5,12, 24, 35,37 and 39 above, and further in view of Bobry (US Patent No.: 6229565B1).

*With regard to **Claim 6**, Oie teaches of a camera according to claim 5 that has a display means in **Column 5, Lines 34-39**. However, Oie does not teach that the display means comprises a printer device and wherein the display means is configured to display the manipulated image by printing it. Bobry teaches of a camera with an LCD screen and a printer. The image that is displayed on the LCD screen can be printed by*

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the printer and displayed on a medium 21, **Figure 1 and Column 4, Lines 61-64 of Bobry**. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to display a manipulated image by printing it from a printing device because this provides instant availability of the recorded image, **Column 1, Lines 22-23 of Bobry**.

In regard to **Claim 13**, Oie teaches of a plurality of cameras according to claim 12, with the display means. However, Oie does not teach of the display means comprising a printer device configured to print the secondary manipulated image. The manipulated (expanded) image that is displayed on the LCD screen can be printed by the printer and displayed on a medium 21, **Figure 1 and Column 4, Lines 61-64 of Bobry**. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to display a manipulated image by printing it from a printing device because this provides instant availability of the recorded image, **Column 1, Lines 22-23 of Bobry**.

Claim 25 is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claim 13 and is therefore analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to apparatus claim 13.

Regarding **Claim 36**, Oie teaches of a manipulated (compressed/expanded) image according to claim 35. However, Oie does not teach of a manipulated image comprising a printed manipulated image. The manipulated (expanded) image that is displayed on the LCD screen can be printed by the printer and displayed on a medium 21, **Figure 1 and Column 4, Lines 61-64 of Bobry**. It would have been obvious to one

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*of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to display a manipulated image by printing it from a printing device because this provides instant availability of the recorded image, **Column 1, Lines 22-23 of Bobry.***

*With regard to **Claim 38**, Oie teaches of a secondary manipulated image according to claim 37 as taught in the above claims. However, Oie does not teach of the secondary manipulated image according to claim 37, comprising a printed secondary manipulated image. The manipulated (expanded) image that is displayed on the LCD screen can be printed by the printer and displayed on a medium 21, **Figure 1 and Column 4, Lines 61-64 of Bobry.** It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to display a manipulated image by printing it from a printing device because this provides instant availability of the recorded image, **Column 1, Lines 22-23 of Bobry.***

***Claim 40** is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claim 38 and is therefore analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to apparatus claim 38.*

Claims 7-8, 18-20 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oie (US Patent No.: 6188431B1) and Bobry (US Patent No.:

6229565B1) as applied to claims 1-6 and 11 above, and further in view of

Steinberg et al. (US Patent No.: 6006039)

Regarding **Claim 7**, Oie and Bobry disclose a camera according to claim 6 that comprises a manipulation-instruction storage device (Flash Memory 35 in **Figure 2 and Column 6, Lines 38-42 of Oie**). However Oie and Bobry do not explicitly disclose a storage device reader configured to read image manipulation instructions stored on a manipulation-instruction storage-device. Steinberg et al. teach of a storage device reader (slot 16) that can read instructions (configuration data) from a manipulation-instruction storage-device (storage device 22), **Figure 1 and Column 3, Lines 57-61 of Steinberg**. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate into the teachings of Oie and Bobry a storage device and storage device reader because this can be used to provide the camera with the capability of adjusting the operational parameters and entering data base information, **Column 2, Lines 17-32 of Steinberg**.

In regard to **Claim 8**, Oie, Bobry and Steinberg disclose a camera according to claim 7, wherein the image manipulation means is configured to generate the manipulated image by manipulating the input image in accordance with image manipulation instructions received from a manipulation-instruction storage-device via the storage-device reader (The compression/expansion section 33 manipulates (compresses/expands) the image signals input from the I/O port through the CPU 39, **Column 5, Lines 20-35 and Figure 2 of Oie**). However Oie and Bobry do not explicitly disclose a storage device reader configured to read image manipulation instructions

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stored on a manipulation-instruction storage-device. Steinberg et al. teach of a storage device reader (slot 16) that can read instructions (configuration data) from a manipulation-instruction storage-device (storage device 22), **Figure 1 and Column 3, Lines 57-61 of Steinberg**. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate into the teachings of Oie and Bobry a storage device and storage device reader because this can be used to provide the camera with the capability of adjusting the operational parameters and entering data base information, **Column 2, Lines 17-32 of Steinberg**).

Regarding **Claim 18**, Oie and Bobry disclose a plurality of cameras according to claim 11, wherein the primary and secondary cameras 1a and 1b each comprise a manipulation-instruction storage device, (Flash Memory 35 in **Figure 2 and Column 6, Lines 38-42 of Oie**). However Oie and Bobry do not explicitly disclose storage device readers configured to read image manipulation instructions stored on manipulation-instruction storage-devices. Steinberg et al. teach of a storage device reader (slot 16) that can read instructions (configuration data) from a manipulation-instruction storage-device (storage device 22), **Figure 1 and Column 3, Lines 57-61 of Steinberg**. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate into the teachings of Oie and Bobry a storage device and storage device reader because this can be used to provide the camera with the capability of adjusting the operational parameters and entering data base information, **Column 2, Lines 17-32 of Steinberg**.

With regard to **Claim 19**, Oie, Bobry and Steinberg teach of a plurality of cameras according to claim 18, wherein the image manipulation means of the primary camera is configured to form the primary manipulated image by manipulating the input image in accordance with image manipulation instructions received from a manipulation instruction storage device via the storage-device reader of the primary camera. The compression/expansion section 33 manipulates (compresses/expands) the image signals input from the I/O port through the CPU 39, **Column 5, Lines 20-35 and Figure 2 of Oie**. However Oie and Bobry do not explicitly disclose a storage device reader configured to read image manipulation instructions stored on a manipulation-instruction storage-device. Steinberg et al. teach of a storage device reader (slot 16) that can read instructions (configuration data) from a manipulation-instruction storage-device (storage device 22), **Figure 1 and Column 3, Lines 57-61 of Steinberg**. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate into the teachings of Oie and Bobry a storage device and storage device reader because this can be used to provide the camera with the capability of adjusting the operational parameters and entering data base information, **Column 2, Lines 17-32 of Steinberg**).

Claim 20 is rejected using the same arguments used in claim 19 because the cameras 1a and 1b are of the same type, **Column 4, Lines 47-48**.

In regard to method **Claims 30-32**, they correspond to apparatus claims 18-20 and are therefore analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to apparatus claims 18-20.

Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oie (US Patent No.: 6188431B1) as applied to claim 41 above, and further in view of Katayama et al. (US Patent No.: 6141036)

*In regard to **Claim 42**, Oie teaches of a camera according to claim 41, wherein the image manipulation means is configured to manipulate the input image (The compression/expansion section 33 manipulates (compresses/expands) the image signals input from the I/O port through the CPU 39, **Column 5, Lines 20-35 and Figure 2**). However, Oie doesn't teach of manipulating the input image by combining at least part of the input image with at least part of the captured image to form the manipulated image. Katayama teaches that the input image from one camera can be combined with the captured image from another camera to form a single image, **Column 5, Lines 45 et seq.** It would have been obvious and well known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to be able to incorporate into the teachings of Oie the feature of being able to combine images from one camera in with another during the manipulation process because this could be used to generate a panoramic image and generate a wider coverage angle of an image captured, **Column 1, Lines 38-40 of Katayama.***

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9,10,21, 22, 33 and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pritham Prabhakher whose telephone number is 571-270-1128. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-5:00) Alt Friday's Off.

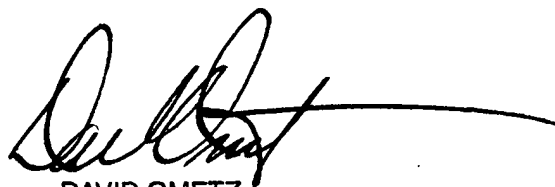
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571)272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Pritham D. Prabhakher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ometz', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER